

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07967 050254Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W
-----099820 050259Z /61

P R 041115Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3220
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: PPP GIVES GUARDED ASSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS

1. AUGUST FOUR PRESS FRONTPAGE STORIES HEADLINE THE
PPP'S HEDGED DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN OCTOBER ELECTIONS.
BHUTTO MET WITH THE PRESS AUGUST THIRD AND INDICATED
THAT THE PARTY DECISION WAS NOT UNANIMOUS. HE CAVEATED
THE DECISION WITH THE STATEMENT THAT "IF A SITUATION AROSE
WHERE WE THINK THE PPP WAS NOT GIVEN FAIR TREATMENT IN
THE ELECTIONS, THE PARTY MIGHT REVERSE ITS DECISION."

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2. GENE KRAMER, AP CORRESPONDENT, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE
HAD EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW WITH BHUTTO AUGUST SECOND. FORMER
PRIME MINISTER MADE TWO COMMENTS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES.
HE SAID HE HOPED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT
HE IS NOT ANTI-AMERICAN AND THAT ALL ACTIONS HE HAS TAKEN
HAVE BEEN IN PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL INTEREST. ON QUESTION
OF MASSIVE AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN PAKISTAN, BHUTTO SAID

HE HAS TURNED THE 50-60 PAGES OF EVIDENCE "WHICH VANCE REFUSED TO ACCEPT" OVER TO THE MLA.

3. BHUTTO TOLD KRAMER THAT THERE WERE TWO GROUPS IN THE PPP OPPOSED TO CONTESTING THE ELECTIONS. ONE BELIEVES THAT THE "DICE ARE LOADED AGAINST THE PPP BY THE MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES" WHO ARE NOT IMPARTIAL BUT PRO-PNA. ANOTHER GROUP MAINTAINS THAT THE PPP HAS MADE GREAT SACRIFICES FOR THE NATION, WHICH DOES NOT APPRECIATE THE PARTY'S EFFORTS. IF THE PNA AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES THINK THEY CAN DO BETTER, LET THEM TRY.

4. COMMENT- BHUTTO HAS LEFT HIMSELF WITH SOME FLEXIBILITY AS TO HIS POLITICAL COURSE OVER THE NEXT TWO AND ONE HALF MONTHS. HIS COMMENTS ABOUT GROUPS WITHIN THE PPP WHO DO NOT WANT TO CONTEST REFLECT WHAT WE UNDERSTAND IS HIS OWN PERSONAL DISPLEASURE WITH WHAT HE SEES AS THE PRO-PNA ROLE OF THE MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES. BY NOTING THAT IF THE PPP DOES NOT RECEIVE "FAIR TREATMENT" IN THE CAMPAIGN, BHUTTO HAS LEFT THE DOOR OPEN TO EITHER COMPLETELY OPT OUT OR BOYCOTT SOMETIME BEFORE OCTOBER 18. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PARTY WILL CONTINUE ITS ACTIVE EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE FOR ELECTIONS.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Subject: PPP GIVES GUARDED ASSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, PK, PPP, (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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